

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 1537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the sunset review of the authority of the governing
3 bodies of taxing units to contract with attorneys to represent the
4 taxing units in enforcing the collection of delinquent ad valorem
5 taxes on property in the taxing units.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. (a) The Sunset Advisory Commission shall review
8 the authority of the governing bodies of taxing units under Section
9 6.30(c), Tax Code, to contract with attorneys to represent the
10 taxing units in the enforcement of the collection of delinquent ad
11 valorem taxes, including:

12 (1) the appropriateness of the terms and conditions of
13 contracts entered into under that subsection;

14 (2) the reasonableness of the compensation set in
15 contracts entered into under that subsection;

16 (3) the quality of the actual representation of
17 attorneys contracted to represent taxing units under that
18 subsection;

19 (4) the effectiveness of attorneys with which taxing
20 units have contracted under that subsection in collecting
21 delinquent ad valorem taxes on behalf of the taxing units; and

22 (5) the procedure for determining the property owners
23 against which delinquent tax suits should be brought by attorneys
24 with which taxing units have contracted.

1 (b) The Sunset Advisory Commission shall report its
2 findings to the legislature not later than December 1, 2016.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.